

## **2004 ACCOMPLISHMENTS – AIR MANAGEMENT**

### ***Air Permit Improvement Initiative Accomplishments***

During the last year, DNR's [Air Permit Improvement Initiative \(APII\)](#) conducted focus groups to solicit feedback from business and environmental organizations regarding Wisconsin's air management permitting program. Stakeholder involvement continued throughout the year as a variety of APII work groups shaped recommendations for streamlining the permit process. APII also evaluated why past permit improvement efforts were unsuccessful in order to help ensure that the recommendations from the current initiative will be properly implemented. Performance measures as well as targets have been established to help track APII's success in reforming the permit program while at the same time protecting the environment

### ***Asbestos Citation Authority & Implementation***

Air Management provided training and guidance internally and externally on the [asbestos program](#) requirements and proposed rules including citation authority to the following groups: SE Wisconsin Building Inspectors Association, Association of General Contractors, Sigma Environmental, Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association, DNR Property Managers - NER, Building Demolition Industry, and at the Annual Asbestos Conference. This training was completed in cooperation with Environmental Enforcement staff and contracted asbestos inspectors to create effective and consistent enforcement work. Using the new statutory authority, DNR Environmental Wardens issued ten asbestos citations in 2004 for a total of \$15,405 in forfeitures.

### ***Biowatch***

DNR's Air Program began sampling activities for Biowatch in April 2003. Bio-watch is a Homeland Security program that requires sample collection every day of the year. So far, DNR has collected over 5500 samples from the Bio-watch network in our area. Through the dedication and commitment of the DNR staff working the state has a data capture in excess of 99%. In April 2004, the Department of Homeland Security's contractor, Defense Group Incorporated (DGI), conducted an audit of the DNR's Bio-watch operations; DNR received a perfect 5 of 5 for audit results. In September 2004 EPA Region 5 conducted an audit of our Bio-watch operations. EPA determined that the overall performance of the agency's Biowatch program is satisfactory. They commended the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Air Management, Air Monitoring Branch, and Southeast Region for outstanding quality assurance activities and having a conscientious air monitoring staff. Because of these good marks, Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) selected Wisconsin's Biowatch Program for a full field exercise during the 2003 Harley Fest.

### **[Breathing Easier -- Forecasting Air Quality in Wisconsin](#)**

#### **Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, December 2004**

This publication provides an overview of our air quality successes and challenges. The core material consists of basic information about six main air pollutants - Ozone, Particle Pollution, Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides, and Lead. For each of these air pollutants, information is provided about the emission sources, health effects, and ambient air quality trends over the past 20+ years.

As demonstrated by our air monitoring data, we have made excellent progress on reducing levels of Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides, Carbon Monoxide, and Lead in the air. We have made good progress on Ozone, but our data shows that we still have more work to do on Ozone and Particle Pollution.

Several programs to address air pollution are given special attention in this publication. These include the Air Quality Index (a tool to communicate air quality information to the general public); the School Bus Retrofit and Gas Cap Wrench (programs that reduce air emissions); new visibility monitors and hazecam;

the mercury rule; efforts to reduce air emissions from open and outdoor burning; and public education on actions folks can take to reduce air pollution.

### ***Diesel School Bus Retrofits***

The Department secured funding [to retrofit 500+ diesel powered school buses in Southeastern Wisconsin](#) with diesel oxidation catalyst devices. The devices will reduce VOC emissions from the buses by 50%, CO emissions by 50%, fine-particle emissions by 25% and will reduce other toxic pollutants as well. This effort not only reduces school children's exposure to air pollutants, but it will also help reduce ozone and fine-particle concentrations in Eastern Wisconsin.

### ***Easier and Quicker Air Emissions Reporting***

Over 90% of companies are now filing their annual air emission inventory electronically to save time and money. Of the 1,923 facilities that were required to report 2003 air emissions in 2004, 1,747 were sent electronic notification. The email message furnished instructions allowing the company contact to load a data collection program, the [Consolidated Reporting System \(CRS\)](#), onto their computer, load their prior year information, update this information, and send it back to DNR electronically for emission calculation. Companies liked seeing initial calculations in mid-April to make any corrections before receiving final emission reports the last week of May.

For 2005, we will make an adjustment to receiving information to allow the DNR to receive all information electronically. Some company's computer security systems blocked the sending of updated information to the DNR last year.

### ***Elimination of the Federal Operation Permit Backlog!***

The Air Program has successfully eliminated the remaining 148 Federal Operation Permits (Title V) that were identified for completion at the start of 2004. To complete this effort, the Air Program used a highly concentrated and coordinated statewide approach. As a result, Wisconsin went from worst to first in regard to Title V permit issuance percentages in US EPA Region 5 (as will be reflected in EPA's next quarterly update of Title V issuance progress). This accomplishment is a real testament to the dedication, professionalism and perseverance of our staff.

### ***Full Compliance Evaluations***

Air Management exceeded its commitment to USEPA for Full Compliance Evaluations (inspection) by 30. This was in spite of the cutbacks in complaint response brought about by the redeployment, regional staff continued to meet customer service expectations, thanks to creativity in using scarce resources, and good personal and program communication efforts.

### ***Hazardous Air Pollutant Information***

To help with the changes to hazardous air pollutant rule, Chapter NR 445, and the emission inventory reporting rule, Chapter NR 438, Wis. Adm. Code, a web page was designed to help company representatives determine which air hazardous air contaminants may be emitted by their facility. The web page will provide information on all 702 pollutants in the amended emission inventory reporting rule. Information includes the potential use of the chemical and web links to other databases containing more comprehensive chemical information.

Although there were 702 air contaminant entries in the amended NR 438.03, Wis. Adm. Code, the actual number of unique pollutants is 623. This is due to some air contaminants having more than one commonly known name. The web site will provide information on all listed pollutants and identify the duplicate named pollutant entries.

### ***Historical Emission Information Internet Posting***

DNR customers have expressed an interest in obtaining stationary source air emission inventory data from the Internet. Early in 2005, calendar year 2003 air emission inventory data will be posted on the DNR web site with trend information for criteria air pollutants (carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, PM10, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds) from 1985-2003. The trend information is presented in graphics and spreadsheet form.

### ***Legislative Audit Committee Report***

In November, the Legislative Audit Committee expressed their satisfaction with the progress the Air Management Program had made at addressing the [February 2004 audit recommendations](#). In September, the Department provided the Legislative Audit Committee a written status report on Air Management's progress at streamlining the permit program and improving data management systems. Secretary Hassett and Lloyd Eagan, Bureau Director, subsequently appeared before the committee in November. The committee expressed their pleasure at the work that had been accomplished and encouraged the air program to continue to act on permit streamlining.

### ***Mercury Rule***

Wisconsin began implementing a [state mercury regulation](#) in October 2004. Wisconsin is one of only four states that have established mercury emission reduction requirements for coal-fired electric utility boilers. This regulation is the culmination of several years of effort involving concerned citizens, other state agencies, the legislature, the Governor's office, industry and electric utilities. In contrast to the January 2004 federal proposal, this regulation clearly demonstrates that mercury emission reductions from the utility sector are feasible, cost effective and can be expeditiously achieved without threatening electric reliability.

### ***New Source Review - High Profile Project completions***

Over the course of the year, the new source review program completed reviews for two coal fired power plants. These plants would ultimately produce approximately 1500 MW of additional electrical generation (WE Energy Elm Road and WPSC Weston 4). In addition, air staff completed several projects that take advantage of pollution control/prevention activities from control of VOCs at landfills (Deertrack Park, Dane County, Mallard Ridge) to prevention of odors (Agrifarms and Wisconsin Renewal Energy Co-op). The program completed reviews of several job-producing projects for companies such as Louisiana Pacific Corporation and Neenah Foundry. The program continues to complete permit reviews faster than national averages and is credited by the many fine people it has conducting this work. The program continues to meet the time frames for permit issuance contained in 2003 Wisconsin Act 118.

### ***Permit Streamlining Report to the Legislature***

The Department submitted its [Report on Air Permit Streamlining Efforts](#) to the Legislature on September 1, 2004, as required by [2003 Wisconsin Act 118](#). The report describes the framework guiding the department's permit streamlining initiative. The framework envisions a fundamental shift from a predominantly

individualized permitting process to a more standardized one, a shift toward more operational flexibility for facilities and a shift of department and industry resources from processing permits to taking actions that achieve air quality benefits.

### ***Revised Air Toxics Rule***

Wisconsin's [air toxics rule revisions](#) became effective July 1, 2004. The revisions are the product of an intensive three year stakeholder process involving representatives from industry, health departments, and environmental and citizen organizations. The revisions will result in improved public health protection by updating the 15-year-old rule to reflect current knowledge about hazardous air pollutants. Substantial reforms were also made to the regulatory processes that reduce the administrative burden and provide more operational flexibility for industry.

### ***State Innovation Grant***

In 2004 the Air Management Program was informed that we are one of ten states that will receive a significant grant award from USEPA to pilot innovative permit approaches. This State Innovation Grant is a welcome complement to the Air Permit Improvement Initiative and will allow us to fully implement two alternative approaches with potential to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of regulating the printing sector in Wisconsin. These approaches also allow flexibility to printing facilities in meeting air program requirements.

The first approach, an Environmental Results Program (ERP), targets small printers. In an ERP all regulatory responsibilities (i.e. air, hazardous waste, and spills management) are incorporated into a comprehensive approach that includes compliance assistance, self-inspection/certification and oversight inspections. The second approach is for large printers and involves developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) based alternative to a traditional Title V permit. If the pilots are successful, both approaches may have application in other industry sectors.

### ***Voluntary Emission Reduction Registry***

The [Voluntary Emission Reduction Registry](#) (NR437) was launched on June 30, 2004. The Department has received ten applications have been received and approved as of December 20, 2004. These emission reductions came from private industry, utilities and state government. Reductions were approved from activities occurring from 1992 through 2004. Over 38 million tons carbon dioxide, 2500 tons sulfur dioxide, 6500 tons nitrogen oxides and 160 tons carbon monoxide emission reductions have been registered.

### ***Wisconsin State Implementation Plan (SIP)***

The non-statutory provisions of 2003 Wisconsin Act 118 requires DNR to determine the Wisconsin State SIP and what provisions of the existing SIP should be removed, if any, by March 2005. The initial determination of what the Wisconsin SIP consists of was completed and supplied to DNR's Bureau of Legal Services for review. This preliminary information has also been shared with EPA-Region V so that any request for removal of provisions from the Wisconsin SIP can be moved through EPA's internal SIP processing procedures in a timely manner.